

City of Gaithersburg Special Edition

COMMUNIQUE  
ELECTION 2007

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Candidates were invited to submit a 250-word statement for publication in this special election edition of the Communiqué. Their statements appear unedited.



**Ahmed Ali**  
Ahmed Ali is the President & CEO of TISTA Science and Technology Corporation, a technology company he founded in 2005. As a Veteran, a husband and a father, Ahmed cares deeply about family values, the well being of our children in the community, and public safety. Ahmed supports after-school programs for kids, encourages diversity in the community, and is a believer of strength through unity. Ahmed is an advocate of maintaining a quality school system, and always looking for ways to support the teaching community, our local law enforcement, and the military community.

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**Shawn Ali**  
I am seeking to run for Gaithersburg City Council because as a resident of Montgomery County for over 20 years and of Gaithersburg for over 10 years, I have seen many changes in our city. As an elected official, I seek to build a consensus with the Mayor, the honorable City Council members, and elected officials from District 17 to tackle our toughest problems. Our city faces many challenges such as overcrowded schools, traffic congestion, and a large skilled workforce commuting out of the area. I believe we need to create not just homes but business incentives for our residents to employ their professional skills here and contribute to the economy of Gaithersburg. In the past we have attracted such stars as

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**Jud Ashman**  
Gaithersburg has been a wonderful place to live and raise my children, but there are many areas that need improvement. As a council member, I promise to serve the interests of our citizens from all neighborhoods throughout Gaithersburg and propose the following initiatives within my platform.

- Work together as a council, and be open and responsive to our citizens
- Move forward on revitalizing our aging neighborhoods

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**Cathy Drzyzgula**  
My husband and I moved to Gaithersburg’s historic district in 1989 because it was a neighborhood with decent yards that we could afford. I became involved in City government by joining the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, the closest thing to an HOA for my neighborhood. Serving on that committee and others during 10 years, I’ve learned about land use, city budgets and programs, and testified at many Council meetings. I’m a person who tries to make things better, not just complain. I’ve learned that it takes patience and persistence to get things done in the government arena, but it is possible, and worth the effort. Our neighborhood was told that nothing could be done about the drinking problems

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**Wilson Lee Faris**  
Good evening citizens and thank you for watching. My name is Wilson Faris and I am asking for your vote on November 6. Visit me on [www.standwithme.net](http://www.standwithme.net) to view my platform and personal information. There are more than twenty five thousand registered voters living within the City of Gaithersburg. Of that number approximately three thousand vote on a regular basis. It is time that this dismal situation is corrected.

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**Carlos Solis**  
Carlos Solis has lived in the City of Gaithersburg for 20 years, since he moved to the region from his native country of Ecuador. He lives with his wife Dr. Lourdes Solis and two children, Carlos Solis Jr., age 20, and Israel Solis, age 14. Carlos Jr. is a student at Mount St. Mary University in Frederick and is a graduate of St. Johns Catholic Prep. Israel is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Johns. Carlos owns and manages Family Dentistry of Gaithersburg together with his wife, Lourdes, who is a dentist. The family actively worships at St. Martin’s Church where Carlos participates in the men’s bible study and serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Four years ago,

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**Ryan Spiegel**  
Ryan Spiegel provides thoughtful, innovative, and hard-working leadership for Gaithersburg. As a homeowner in the Kentlands, Spiegel is a strong advocate for tempering growth to preserve the character and value of our neighborhoods and to relieve crowding of our schools and roads. He worked on the Smart Growth initiative at Maryland’s Department of Planning and fought to give municipalities more power to curb rampant growth. An avid environmentalist, Ryan drives a hybrid vehicle and supports alternative energy use and high-quality mass transit.

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CANDIDATE PROFILES (Continued from page 1)

Ahmed Ali

As a US Military Service Disabled Veteran, Ahmed understands the dedication and commitment that is required in not only serving our nation, but also in supporting our local and state governments. Ahmed is a proponent of preserving our cities heritage through Smart Growth, and slow growth strategies, and in looking into ways to expand access to our health care for our residents. Ahmed believes that the local government should be involved in promoting unity in our community, and in providing better opportunities for all.

Ahmed holds his B.S. from the University of Maryland UC, and holds his M.S. from Capitol College, graduating with honors. Ahmed has a business back ground from Georgetown University in Washington DC. Ahmed is also a candidate at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and

will be completing a program in Innovations in Governance. Ahmed lives with his wife and two young children in the Quince Orchard Park Community.

**Age:** 35  
**Education:** University of Maryland University College – Information Systems Management and Capitol College – M.S. Network Security  
**Occupation:** President & CEO – TISTA Science and Technology Corporation  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 3 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Attend HOA Meetings  
**Hobbies:** Football, Auto, Reading, Movies

Shawn Ali

NIST, IBM, Lockheed Martin, and newly arrived MedImmune. Traffic congestion will continue to increase and we must be prepared to offer solutions such as extending Metro to Germantown and widening roads with existing heavy traffic. I plan to implement growth with quality of life through development taxes and fees. Many of our schools are overcrowded and the county’s growth policy needs to be balanced. The current policy allows for school capacity to hit rates of 135 percent before a development moratorium is issued, which is unacceptable. New development must address the adequacy of public facilities and infrastructure and must be tied with the county’s growth policy before construction can begin. As your elected official, we will make Gaithersburg even a more viable place to live.

**Age:** 33  
**Education:** Salisbury State University – B.S. & University of Maryland, University College – M.S.  
**Occupation:** Information Technology Security Consultant  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 12 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Gaithersburg Information Technology and Innovations Committee, Candidate for Maryland House of Delegates  
**Hobbies:** Running, Volunteering

Jud Ashman

- Take necessary actions to reduce crime
- Ensure that growth in the City is done responsibly, affirming that there’s room in the schools and on our roads before approving development
- Build a new state of the art Senior Center
- Provide better stewardship for our environment

Over the years I’ve built a long track record of community leadership and advocacy on a broad range of issues that affect our Quality of Life. I’m very proud to have held many upper level positions within the PTA system and to have participated with the Mayor and City Council on the many issues that have come before us in recent years. In particular, I worked with Councilmember Mike Sesma to bring Adequate Public Facilities and Affordable Housing to the table, both of which have since been passed into law.

I look forward to bringing my platform to the table and getting the job done.

I’d like your support and your vote on November 6th, and I also ask you to vote for my long-time fellow advocate, Cathy Drzyzgula.

Please visit us at: [www.judandcathy.com](http://www.judandcathy.com).

**Age:** 36  
**Education:** University Miami, Coral Gables – B.A. in Communications and Political Science  
**Occupation:** President, The Elegant Envelope  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 10 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee on Election Participation (Gaithersburg); Participate in update of Master Plan (Gaithersburg), Candidate for City Council – 2005.  
**Hobbies:** Advocating City Issues, Reading, Sports

Cathy Drzyzgula

associated with our 7-11, but we did— I served as the community organizer for that effort. I also organized a Neighborhood Watch to address crime issues and to channel people’s fear and concerns in a positive direction. Things are a lot better now in my neighborhood than they previously were. I want to bring similar changes at the City level.

We need responsive government, increased police service with more beats, carefully balanced development with adequate facilities, protection for the environment, a new Senior Center, support for transportation choices, and continued sound fiscal policy. We need to keep an eye on the basic services so they aren’t forgotten. I promise that I and my co-candidate, Jud Ashman, will work hard to achieve these goals and make our City a better place for all.

**Age:** 51  
**Education:** Yale University – B.A. Economics. Studied at George Washington University Graduate School  
**Occupation:** None  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 18 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Gaithersburg Historic Preservation Advisory Committee since 1997, Greater Historic District Committee since 2000, Gaithersburg Day Laborer Task Force 2006, Gaithersburg Ad Hoc Election Participation Committee 2007  
**Hobbies:** Gardening, Local History

Wilson Lee Faris

Theodore Roosevelt once said that ‘a vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.’ Stand with me on November 6 to demonstrate the character of our citizens! Stand with me on November 6 to show the usefulness of our actions!

On you way to or from work....VOTE! Get up off of the sofa and VOTE! Put away the magazine, turn off the television, and VOTE! If you child is new to the process then come as a family and VOTE! What better way to show your children what this country is all about? When you get to the polls and find a long line, just wait and pray to God for the opportunity. By sitting home on November 6 you become nothing more than a slave to someone else’s beliefs.

The philosopher Plato said it best ‘those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber’.

I am Wilson Faris and I ask for your vote. Visit me at [www.standwithme.net](http://www.standwithme.net).

Thank you!

**Age:** 61  
**Education:** University of Richmond, Montgomery College  
**Occupation:** Sales Specialist – Lowes  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 29 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Gaithersburg Landlord Tenant Commission  
**Hobbies:** Camping, Military History, Collecting Movie and Television Props





CANDIDATE PROFILES (Continued from page 1)

Carlos Solis

Carlos became a member of the Gaithersburg Chief of Police’s Advisory Council, where he has dedicated his time to improving relations between the police and the community. Carlos is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Since Carlos became a citizen 12 years ago, he has voted in city elections and attends city council meetings to hear and participate in the political process.

Carlos wants to run for office because he is dedicated to serving all residents of the City, particularly the poor. Carlos will dedicate his public service to ensuring that diverse communities in Gaithersburg are speaking to each other and have a seat at the table when decisions are made on their behalf.

**Age:** 48  
**Education:** Colegio Nacional Bolivia, Ambato Ecuador, Montgomery College  
**Occupation:** Dental Practice – Family Dentistry of Gaithersburg  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 20 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Gaithersburg Police Chief’s Advisory Council since 2003  
**Hobbies:** Active Parishioner with St. Martin’s Church and Member of Various Church-based Committees

Ryan Spiegel

Spiegel is serious about public safety. He served as chairman of Montgomery County’s crime victims advisory board, and he was one of the first people to propose tough new anti-gang laws during his previous campaign for the legislature. As a proud graduate of Maryland public schools, Ryan also supports our local schools as a member of the Gaithersburg Education Committee and serves on the Board of Directors of the University of Maryland Hillel.

Spiegel believes passionately that government should serve the people and promote equality and opportunity. He is committed to government accountability, fiscal responsibility, accessibility, and openness.

Ryan Spiegel is an attorney at Winston & Strawn in Washington, D.C., where he

performs hundreds of hours of *pro bono* work each year. A fourth-generation Terrapin, Ryan graduated with honors from the University of Maryland, where he was named student leader of the year. He earned his law degree at Stanford, where he was co-chief of the *Law & Policy Review*. His wife Rachael is a photographer.

**Age:** 29  
**Education:** University of Maryland College Park – B.A. in Journalism, Stanford Law School, J.D.  
**Occupation:** Attorney, Winston & Strawn LLP  
**Residency in Gaithersburg:** 2 years  
**Municipal Involvement:** Gaithersburg Education Committee  
**Hobbies:** Travel, Languages, Community Service, Gardening

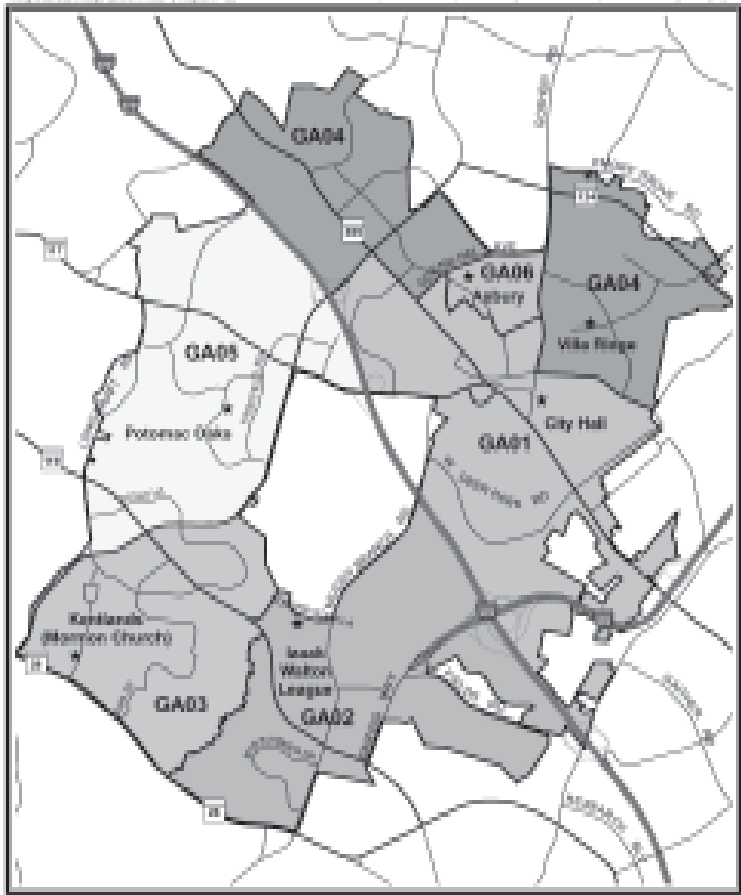
Where Do I Vote ?

In 2007 there will be six polling places located throughout the City of Gaithersburg. About a week before the election registered voters will receive a sample ballot and a notice of election, indicating to which of the six polling places you are assigned. You MUST vote at your specific precinct or by absentee ballot. Voters with disabilities may use the special AutoMARK voting machine, located at City Hall.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Please note that the Asbury Methodist Village site will ONLY be available for residents of Asbury. If you were previously assigned to this precinct and are NOT a resident of Asbury, you will now vote at the Villa Ridge Community Room.

Voters who were previously assigned to the Shady Grove Village Community Room precinct will now be voting at the Izaak Walton League precinct.



Polling Places

- GA01 – City Hall**  
31 South Summit Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- GA02 – Izaak Walton League**  
707 Conservation Ln.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- GA03 – Kentlands – Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints**  
16 Kent Gardens Cir.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- GA04 – Villa Ridge Community Room**  
414 Girard St.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- GA05 – Potomac Oaks Clubhouse**  
780 Quince Orchard Blvd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- GA06 – Asbury Methodist Village**  
417 Russell Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**COMMUNIQUE**

The *Communiqué*, a newsletter for the City of Gaithersburg, is produced by the:

**Public Information Office**  
**Britta Monaco, Director**  
**Gaithersburg City Hall**  
**31 S. Summit Ave.**  
**Gaithersburg, MD 20877**  
**301-258-6310**  
**www.gaithersburgmd.gov**

*Mayor*  
**Sidney A. Katz**

*Council Vice President*  
**Stanley J. Alster**

*Council Members*  
**Geri Edens**  
**Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.**  
**John B. Schlichting**  
**Michael A. Sesma**

*City Manager*  
**David B. Humpton**



Unable To Get to a Polling Place on November 6? Gaithersburg Allows “No Excuse” Absentee Voting

Any registered voter within the City limits is entitled to cast an absentee ballot on Election Day, and this year you don’t need to give a reason for requesting one. Recently the Mayor and City Council adopted an ordinance to amend Chapter 6C of the City Code to permit qualified voters to cast an absentee ballot without the requirement that the voter be away from the City on Election Day. Applications for absentee ballots may be picked up in person at City Hall during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday), requested via telephone at 301-258-6310 or downloaded from the internet at www.gaithersburgmd.gov through November 6, 2007. Completed applications can then be mailed or dropped off at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877. Your application must contain your signature, printed name, current legal residential address within the City, any mailing address different from your residential address and, if applicable, your authorized agent.

After approval of the application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you. Residents who have been approved for an absentee ballot after October 31 must pick up their absentee ballot at City Hall during normal business hours. Absentee ballots may be returned to City Hall in person up to and including the time of closing of the polls on Election Day. All mailed absentee ballots must be received by November 6. For more information please call the City Manager’s office at 301-258-6310.

City Switches to Optical Scan Voting System

Voters in the November 6 election will be casting their votes by paper ballot with a system that uses an optical scanner to tabulate them. Citing concerns about system security and the lack of a paper ballot back up, the Board of Supervisors of Elections recommended to the Mayor and City Council that Gaithersburg discontinue use of the Diebold Electronic Voting System for the November 6, 2007 election. Instead the Board recommended the use of Premier Election Solution’s AccuVote Optical Scan (OS) System (Diebold changed its name to Premier Election Solutions in August of 2007) and Election Systems & Software’s AutoMARK System for those with disabilities, which will permit relatively quick, transparent and accurate election results while providing for a paper ballot backup if election results are disputed. By resolution the Mayor and Council approved the use of the new systems on June 18, 2007. Upon entering the precinct, you will be given a sequentially numbered paper ballot, which you will then shade with a pen or pencil and insert

into the AccuVote – OS machine. You will have the opportunity to review your vote before it is optically scanned and tallied on an internal memory card. The AutoMARK System for those with disabilities consists of a device which resembles a fax machine. There are accessories including headphones to allow visually impaired voters to hear their options and check their ballots for accuracy, a “puffer tube” for voters who are unable to use their arms, a Braille pad, and a foot pedal to control the size of the type for visually impaired voters. The AutoMARK machine will only be available at City Hall and voters with disabilities may use it regardless of which precinct they were originally assigned. The AccuVote – OS contains a redundant check and balance system, with each machine producing a cash-register tape with data, electronic disks with data which are compared to the cash-register tapes, and a process that runs all ballots again through a master scanner to ensure that all three sets of data are identical.

Public Demonstration of AccuVote Optical Scan and AutoMARK Voting Systems
Friday October 26, 2007
1 – 5 p.m.
City Hall, 31 S. Summit Ave.
For information call 301-258-6310
GAITHERSBURG Board of Supervisors of Elections
Established in 1977, the Board of Supervisors of Elections oversees the registration of voters and petitions for elected office. The Board also officiates over all regular and special City elections. The volunteer members (five regular and one alternate) are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council and serve staggered four-year terms.
Joan More – Chairman
Barbara Fahey
Eric Kellner
Richard Knoebel
Bill Larson
Nancy Munoz-Azarmanesh

ELECTION RESULTS

As soon as they have been tabulated, the unofficial results of the election will be read live by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Elections in the City Hall Gallery. We anticipate that this will take place at approximately 9 p.m. on November 6. The unofficial results will also be posted on the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov and on the City’s Cable TV station, Comcast Channel 13, viewable within the City Limits and available via streaming video online. The results are not official until certified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections, which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 7. Elected candidates will be sworn in at the Mayor and Council Meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on November 7.

Are You Registered to Vote

City residents who are registered to vote in Montgomery County are automatically registered to vote in the City of Gaithersburg elections. The last day to register to be eligible to vote in the November 6 City elections was Monday, October 8, 2007. To confirm your registration, contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-VOTE or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov. If you are not qualified to vote in this election, please register now so that you can vote in future elections.